No. 6

Dissertation on Bilious Remittent Fever

by

Robt M'Taliaferro

Passed March 1824
W. G. H
Dean

pro
D
fle
= ysm
ns
Ots
Mar
Wat
hea
a
Cove
eron
any

Bilious Remittent Fever

This disease seems to be more or less prevalent in every section of our Country. By Remittent Fever is understood a fever attended with a succession of paroxysms and between each paroxysm there are evident remissions.

Its remote or predisposing causes are Marsh effluvia arising from stagnant Water, or putrefaction of vegetable matter; heat and moisture seems to be also a remote cause also an argillaceous soil covered with wood. — The exciting or occasional cause is exposure to Night air or any excess in exercise, eating, or drinking

and
energ
=sine
mar
Mor
enu
=sepa
bein
=cate
syste
effec
hen
fuel
heat
exe
the
is c
harm
is f
=nel

and in fact, whatever is calculated to enervate the system. Agreeable to the doctrine taught in this School as well as in many others, the proximate cause is "Spec Morbus" or the disease itself, the above enumerated causes have their first impression on the Primae Viae. The disease being seated in the stomach is communicated, by sympathy, to every part of the system, the circulatory system is first effected and Fever is the consequence: hence the great importance of paying particular attention to this organ in health and disease. Caldwell's remarks are here appropriate, where, speaking of the stomach, he observes, when the stomach is too powerfully acted upon, its healthful harmony with the other parts of the Body is for a time destroyed, it no longer extends to them its natural and invigorating

upon
fun
can
The
and
=ced
Dr
dis
fur
chou
Pro
with
mor
the
par
=ider
or a
dah
The
Dea

sympathies. The centre of the confederacy being disordered, sickness and debility cannot fail to pervade the whole.
The key stone of the arch being shattered and loosened the entire structure is weakened and in danger of falling to pieces.
Diagnosis the season of the year. The disease being prevalent, the sallow complexion furred tongue, the gastric irritation all show the nature of the disease. -
Prognosis ~~This~~ fever is always attended with more or less danger, the shorter and more obscure the remissions, the greater the danger to be apprehended; when the paroxysms are short and remissions considerable without any tendency to delirium or any other very distressing symptoms the danger is comparatively small.
The symptoms showing the approach of Death are great prostration of strength.

wo
mot
emil
inso
set,
of the
the
Cold
The
ion
soff
Usin
ins
boil
Cou
B
ma
in t
Oct
pro

irregularity of the pulse and voluntary motion, coldness and shrinking of the extremities, vomiting of bilious matter, hiccough and involuntary discharge of faeces, the eyes set, heavy with the dilatation or contraction of the pupils, the tongue dry and furred the respiration difficult and laborious with cold wrists and warm hands. —

The symptoms showing a happy termination are the pulse becoming regular and soft, the tongue clean and moist, the urine depositing a sediment, the eyes instead of being dull and languid become brilliant and lively, the whole surface covered with a gentle perspiration. —

Bilious Fevers is more violent and makes its attack much more frequently in the months of August. September and October than any other months of the Year, probably owing to their being a greater

pur
Mo
by
bec
our
are
com
othe
on
sig
hou
=ens
hen
=ome
and
atte
the
=ici
with
the

[illegible] in [illegible] Year the system becomes much more [illegible] susceptible to disease. The [illegible] are very numerous and have sometimes something [illegible] violence in the [illegible] fever comes on with [illegible] frequent yawning and sighing with a disinclination to move; then there is a constriction of [illegible] attended with [illegible], there is a pain in the head, back and loins, now reaction becomes considerable, the skin dry, the tongue and fauces dry with [illegible] redness, [illegible] attended with great restlessness and if there is a determination to the head, delirium will ensue, the eyes are suffused with tears, and the adnata of a yellow colour, the pulse is accelerated, beating from one

hundred to one hundred and thirty in a minute, the stomach is irritable with nausea and vomiting, the complexion is dark, and the eyes have the typhoid symptoms, sometimes for a time it may be mistaken for typhus or typhoid, and the patient's experience temporary relief, but it is not long before he is seized with another paroxysm; when the fever comes on without any degree of chill it is much more severe, the paroxysms are much longer and remissions shorter, there is a considerable chill sometimes to the chill, it puts on more the appearance of intermittent fever, in the paroxysms are shorter and remissions longer and more complete, as the fever advances the symptoms are aggravated, and on the third day if there is no crisis, the cold stage seldom appears. It is easy to know

when the paroxysm is coming on or a dry cough which is quite distressing to the patient and continues until the commencement of the paroxysm is not so distressing as when it first commences: it moderates gradually as evacuation takes place; the cough arises from a constricted state of the lungs and always ceases as the pain rises.

In Bilious Fever there are frequent occurrences of the bowels becoming loaded and almost unable to act on Medicine, partly from the remote causes on the stomach and partly from an accumulation of bile in this organ and the duodenum; and if not obviated will soon terminate fatally. This fever runs through its course in severe cases in six or eight days, but in more mild cases it continues for fifteen or twenty days. Treatment. I shall first commence the treatment with blood letting,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] prostration of strength and failure on the typhoid type, the system in being [illegible] or impaired venesection, and be repeated this time [illegible] reaction [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible]

Where the symptoms demand it blood should be freely drawn from the arm making the age, the strength and habits with the juice our criterion. The symptoms demanding venesection are a determination of the blood to the head or some other important organ as the stomach, the bowels

[illegible] it is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

patient, and more simple in form which would answer a purpose [illegible] petition is; There are premises [illegible] where the symptoms demand it [illegible] it is proper to [illegible] it to be in an[illegible].

Then [illegible] emetics, removing the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the patient [illegible] of any other medicine, more particularly in the commencement of the disease, they not only cleanse the primae viae but have a permanent effect on their organs, they also exert a beneficial influence on the capillaries, by means of which a perspiration is promoted and freer secretion. Of all the Emetic articles Tartarized Antimony is entitled to our highest confidence as its effect remains long after the expulsion of the medicine and have in an eminent degree a specific power, in this Fever. Six or eight grains should be dissolved in a cup full of warm water and is taken.

in broken doses until vomiting is induced when its operation should be promoted with warm water or Chamomile tea until the stomach is completely evacuated.

The next step to be pursued is to open the obstructed bowels, this is the most important, they may be properly treated under the Materia Medica: there are a great variety of drastic purgatives, or active state of the bowels are to be forgotten necessary.

It is of the greatest importance to pay particular attention to the after treatment, for without this we must always fail in the cure of bilious fever. As an efficient purge the mild Muriate of Mercury is far superior, but perhaps it would be better combined with other purgatives as Jalap, Gamboge and Rhubarb: after the bowels have been cleared of the bile with their feculent contents

sudorific mixtures should be administered which very frequently put an end to the disease. There have been a great many preparations of Antimony in use such as the golden sulphate of Antimony James's powder but the simple tartarized Antimony is superior to any of them; it should be given in small doses, so as not to nauseate the stomach as nausea has been proved detrimental in fevers. Where the skin is dry and hot, the pulse strong and hurried I have seen the sweet spirits of nitre administered with the happiest effect given in a dose of forty drops every half hour the pulse becomes less hurried and more soft the respiration easier and a moist heat breaks out over the surface of the body with a remission if not a solution of the disease. The acetate of ammonia is a valuable sudorific and also the carbonate

of ammonia [illegible]
The cold bath is [illegible]
remedies when cautiously administered after
the alimentary canal has been evacuated,
it seldom fails to produce a speedy end to the
fever more particularly if commencement
of the disease. The precautions to be
observed are never to resort to the remedy
until the paroxysm has nearly reached its
height and when there is no perspiration or
any tendency to delirium [illegible]
[illegible] the
[illegible] the sensation of burning on the surface
the respiration laborious the tongue and jaws
dry: resort to at this period it also gives very
temporary relief if it does not put a
final solution to the disease After adminis-
tering the remedies it patient falls into a refreshing slumber the respira-
tion becomes easy the skin moist and relaxed

the tongue and fauces meet with a abat-
ment of all the symptoms. The mode of
administering the Cold bath is very
[illegible] to stop the patient of all his bedclothes
and place a cradle on his faulsfull until
the patient feels a reaction of the system
then he should be wrapped up in a warm
Blanket and warm Cordial drinks given
him, there is an immediate determination
to the surface with a copious perspiration.
Of the good effects of the Cold bath I am
confident have been during the last summer
seen upwards of two hundred cases of
bilious remittent fever and in not least
one hundred of remittent fever administered
with the patient [illegible].
When the disease is accompanied with the patient
is exhausted a bath should be prepared
at an early stage of the preparative

In the last stage of fever approaching the patient with [illegible] or [illegible] and [illegible] affording great relief [illegible] [illegible] remaining feel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the last function is [illegible] [illegible] and Ipecacuanha combined in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the disease either [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is produced which must [illegible] [illegible] through the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on the typhoid type are in light of [illegible] [illegible] under such circumstances stimulating [illegible] [illegible] feel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] volatile alkali Aether Brandy with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] In the sinking stage of fever [illegible] [illegible] are of great importance [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by medical men.

It is the custom of many Physicians in the [illegible] to commence the treatment of [illegible] [illegible] by giving twelve [illegible] grains of Calomel and then administering it in small doses

[illegible] is [illegible]
[illegible] if there is no tendency to inflammation, the occasional use of Calomel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] mulant and fever when inflammation is present, [illegible] to [illegible] it.
[illegible] it is [illegible]
should be [illegible] to [illegible] the mercurial disease [illegible] and distress [illegible] which it was [illegible] to cure, I have [illegible] where that [illegible] of [illegible] callous openings through [illegible]
Notwithstanding all this I would practice under certain circumstances. One tincture administered proves very beneficial. When there is perceived the least intermission the Peruvian Bark should be administered in as large quantities as the stomach

will admit, making the stomach our guide respecting the dose and quantity. If the fever should recur the Bark should be discontinued until the next intermission. There is one thing here to be recollected that if the system is not prepared for the Bark, it never fails to be detrimental, finding this to be the case the bowels should be purged with Calomel and James's powder every day or every other day until the fur leaves the tongue and at this period the system will be prepared to recieve the Bark with benefit. Wine is a valuable remedy and may be allowed with the Peruvian Bark. Sometimes the stomach refuses to take the Bark in substance and under such circumstances it should be given in decoction. If it refuses the decoction, it should be given combined with some Bitter or aromatic &c Sometimes one form will be

que
ay
te
in
is
tas
th
ea
bis
in

quite disgusting when another may be very agreeable. The sulphate of Quinine promises to be a very valuable remedy as the dose in quantity is small and the stomach is enabled under any circumstances to take it with ease. The patient's diet should be light and nourishing he should eat frequently and a little at a time his exercise should be moderate increasing it gradually as he regains his strength